

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 250355Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6097

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH TW

SUBJ: FEI I-MIN ON TAIWAN

REF: HONG KONG 8350

1. SUMMARY: PERHAPS WITH SCHEDULED HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIAL VISITS TO CHINA IN MIND, NPC MEMBER AND EDITOR OF HONG KONG'S PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO, FEI I-MIN, IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGEN OFFICERS FOCUSED ON THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN AND EVINCED CONCERN WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S POSSIBLE TOYING WITH A SOVIET OPTION. END SUMMARY

2. FEI IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN OFFICERS

JULY 23 DECRIED TAIWAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD FORMER KMT "WAR CRIMINALS" RELEASED BY THE PRC AND BLAMED THEIR PROBLEMS ON PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO. HE SPECIFICALLY COMPLIMENTED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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US FOR HELPING THE OLD SOLDIERS. FEI ARGUED THAT POWER IN

TAIWAN NOW HAS BECOME EVEN MORE CONCENTRATED THAN DURING THE TIME OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK, AND HE ASSERTED THAT CHIANG CHIN-KUO (CC) IS RUNNING THINGS THROUGH A CLOSE -KNIT, SECRUTIY-MAN-DOMINATED CLIQUE. HE SPECIFICALLY SINGLED OUT GENERAL HUANG CHEN AND TOP GARRISON COMMAND AND SECURITY FORCE FIGURES AS THE LEADERS OF THIS CLIQUE AND STATED THAT OTHERS OF TAIWAN'S LEADERS--- FINANCIAL , MILITARY, AND GOVERNMENT, --- ARE DISILLUSIONED WITH CCK.

3. FEI WAS INSISTENT THT CCK IS CAPABLE OF MAKING A KZAL WITH THE RUSSIANS, BUT SAW THIS BECOMING PUBLIC ONLY WHEN THE US EXCHANGED EMBASSIES WITH PEKING. FOR NOW, HE FELT THE RUSSIAN FEINTS ARE A BIT OF A BLUFF, BUT ONE WHCH COULD BE POTENTIALLY A PROBLEM. HE EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT HE HAD PROOF VICTOR LOUIS HAD BEEN IN TAIWAN "RECENTLY" -- PERHAPS AS LONG AGO, HOWEVER, AS LATE LAST YEAR-- AND THAT OTHER SOVIETS HAD FOLLOWED HIM. FEI ALSO CITED THE REEMERGENCE OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CHOW -SHU-KAI IN THE CCK COTERIER AS EVIDNCE OF THE REGIME'S TOYING WITH A PRO-MOSCOW OPTION, RECALLING THAT CHOW HAD BEEN SACKED BY CHIANG KAI-SHEK FOR SUGGESTING THAT MOSCOW WAS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO WEAKENING ROC/US TIES (REFTEL).

4. FEI LOOKED TO THE FUTURE TO SOLVE PRC/TAIWAN RECONCILIATION AND SO EFFUSIVELY URGED THE NEED FOR CONTACTS TO BEGIN NOW THAT IT APPEARED HE WAS SUGGESTING THE US COULD DO MORE TO ENCOURAGE THE ROC TO BEGIN THESE CONTACTS. FROM HIS PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, FEI CLEARLY HINTED THAT SUBSEQUENT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN BY TAIWAN, AND HE APPEARED TO PUT PEKING IN A PASSIVE ROLE WAITING PATIENTLY FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. FEI ALSO ARGUED THAT EXACT MODALITIES, LENGTH OF TIME OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD, ETC., COULD ALL BE WORKED OUT SO LONG AS TAIWAN DOES NOT TRY THE SOVIET OPTION.

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